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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/961,143	09/24/2001	Kiyoshi Kimura	214075US0	5365

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EXAMINER

TANG, MINH NHUT

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2829

DATE MAILED: 07/21/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/961,143

Applicant(s)

KIMURA ET AL.

Examiner

Minh N. Tang

Art Unit

2829

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 September 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 5, 6, 8-10, 12-15 and 17-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 2-4, 7, 11, 16 and 20 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 24 September 2001 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 3. 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

1. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Information Disclosure Statement

2. The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on December 26, 2001 (Paper No. 3) is considered by the examiner.

Drawings

3. Figures 17 and 18 should be designated by a legend such as --Prior Art-- because only that which is old is illustrated. See MPEP § 608.02(g). A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

4. Applicant is reminded of the proper language and format for an abstract of the disclosure.

The abstract should be in narrative form and generally limited to a single paragraph on a separate sheet within the range of 50 to 150 words. It is important that the abstract not exceed 150 words in length since the space provided for the abstract on the computer tape used by the printer is limited. The form and legal phraseology often used in patent claims, such as "means" and "said" should be avoided. The abstract should describe the disclosure sufficiently to assist readers in deciding whether there is a need for consulting the full patent text for details.

The language should be clear and concise and should not repeat information given in the title. It should avoid using phrases which can be implied, such as, "The disclosure concerns," "The disclosure defined by this invention," "The disclosure describes," etc.

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5. The lengthy specification has not been checked to the extent necessary to determine the presence of all possible minor errors. Applicant's cooperation is requested in correcting any errors of which applicant may become aware in the specification.

Claim Objections

6. Claim 8 is objected to because of the following informalities: in claim 8, line 4, "alubricant" should be -- a lubricant --. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

7. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

8. Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In claim 8, lines 7-8, the limitation "the elastic polymeric substance" has not been recited previously; therefore this term is indefinite.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

9. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

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10. Claims 1, 5-6, 8-10, 12-15, and 17-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Yamazaki et al. (U.S.P. 5,975,915).

As to claims 1, 5, and 8, Yamazaki et al. disclose, in Fig. 7 and 8C, an anisotropically conductive sheet (50) containing conductive particles (52) exhibiting magnetism in a state oriented in a thickness-wise direction of the sheet (50) in an elastic polymeric substance (51), wherein the durometer hardness of the elastic polymeric substance is 20 to 90 (see column 4, lines 57-58 or column 8, line 63), and a parting agent (52C, Fig. 8C) is coated on the surfaces of the conductive particles (52).

As to claim 6, Yamazaki et al. disclose in Fig. 7, a plurality of conductive path-forming parts each closely containing the conductive particles and extending in the thickness-wise direction of the sheet, and insulating part(s) for insulating these conductive path-forming parts mutually.

As to claims 9, and 10, Yamazaki et al. disclose, in Figs. 1 and 2, an adapter comprising a circuit board (20) for inspection on the surface of which a plurality of electrodes (21) for inspection has been formed in accordance with a pattern corresponding to electrodes (12) to be inspected of a circuit device to be inspected (10), and the anisotropically conductive sheet (50) according to any one of claims 1 and 6 integrally provided on a surface of the circuit board (20) for inspection.

As to claims 12, and 13, Yamazaki et al. disclose, in Figs. 1 and 2, at least a part of each of the electrodes (21) for inspection in the circuit board (20) for inspection is formed of a magnetic material.

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As to claims 14, and 15, Yamazaki et al. disclose, in Figs. 1 and 2, an inspection apparatus for circuit devices, comprising a circuit board (20) for inspection on the surface of which a plurality of electrodes (21) for inspection are formed in accordance with a pattern corresponding to electrodes (12) to be inspected of a circuit device to be inspected (10), and the anisotropically conductive sheet (50) according to any one of claims 1 and 6 interposed between the circuit board (20) for inspection and the circuit device (10).

As to claims 17, 18, and 19, Yamazaki et al. disclose, in Figs. 1 and 2, an electronic part-packaged structure comprising a circuit board (20) and an electronic part (10) electrically connected to the circuit board (20) through the anisotropically conductive sheet (50) according to any one of claims 1, 5 and 6.

Allowable Subject Matter

11. Claims 2-4, 7, 11, 16, and 20 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims recite, inter alia, the amount of the lubricant or parting agent coated on the surfaces of the conductive particles is 10/Dn to 150/Dn parts by mass per 100 parts by mass of the conductive particles, wherein Dn means the number average diameter (μm) of the conductive particles.

The art of record does not disclose the above limitations, nor would it be obvious to modify the art of record so as to include the above limitations.

Conclusion


12. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:

Caillat et al.	6,453,553	Method For Making An Anisotropic Conductive Coating With Conductive Inserts.
Shimoda et al.	6,297,652	Electric Resistance Measuring Apparatus And Method For Circuit Board.
Kimura	5,672,978	Inspection Apparatus For Printed Wiring Board.
Kashiro et al.	4,209,481	Process For Producing An Anisotropically Electroconductive Sheet.

13. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Minh N. Tang whose telephone number is (703) 305-1652. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (6:30-4:00) first Fri. Off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mrs. Cuneo , Kamand can be reached on (703) 308-1233. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 305-3431 for regular communications and (703) 305-3432 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 306-3431.


7/10/03